

METHOD FOR FORMING A MR READER WITH REDUCED SHIELD TOPOGRAPHY AND LOW PARASITIC RESISTANCE

The present invention is a method for fabricating a magnetoresistive
5 reader having a sensor, current contacts with low parasitic resistance and a top
shield with substantially planar topology. First, a stripe height back edge of the
sensor is defined, and second, a reader width of the sensor is defined. The current
contacts are deposited to a thickness such that a top surface of the current contacts
is substantially level with a top surface of the sensor. The top shield is deposited
10 over the sensor and the current contacts. Defining the stripe height back edge prior
to the reader width results in current contacts with low parasitic resistance and
inhibits the formation of magnetic domains in the top shield.

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